

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action:

The Examiner has alleged that there are six distinct species of the claimed invention in the above-identified patent application and has required election of one of those species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

The six species are:

- Species I: described in independent claim 86;
- Species II: described in independent claim 91;
- Species III: described in independent claim 102;
- Species IV: described in independent claim 121;
- Species V: described in independent claim 129; and
- Species VI: described in independent claim 138.

Summary of Applicant's Reply:

A one-month extension of time to respond to the March 30, 2005 Office Action is hereby respectfully requested. The Director is hereby authorized to charge \$60.00 in payment of the one-month extension-of-time fee to Deposit Account No. 06-1075 (order no.: 001202.0111). A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Claims 86-147 and 149-226 are currently pending in the above-identified patent application.

Claims 1-76 were previously cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 77-85 and 148 have previously been withdrawn from consideration in light of the October 15, 2004 restriction Requirement in this case.

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Applicant has withdrawn claims 86-96, 109-116, 121-137, 149-170, and 194-215.

Applicant has amended claims 102-104, 139, and 140 to more particularly define the invention and has amended claim 138 to depend from independent claim 102.

No new matter has been added by the amendments to the claims.

Applicant's Election:

Applicant elects, with traverse, for examination in this application, the invention of Species III (independent claim 102 and claims 103-108, 117-120, 138-147, 183-193, and 216-226 which depend from claim 102). Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the inventions of Species I (independent claim 86 and claims 87-90, 109-112, and 149-159 which depend from claim 86), Species II (independent claim 91 and claims 92-96, 113-116, and 160-170 which depend from claim 91), Species IV (independent claim 121 and claims 122-128 and 194-204 which depend from claim 121), and Species V (independent claim 129 and claims 130-137 and 205-215 which depend from claim 129), in one or more continuation or divisional applications.*

* It is to be noted that the Examiner did not include independent claim 97 as one of the designated species deemed to be up for election. Therefore, independent claim 97 and claims 98-101 and 171-182, which depend from claim 97, are also still pending in the present case.

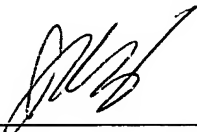
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Conclusion

Applicant has elected for examination a single species of the claimed invention as required by the Examiner. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees due in connection with this paper, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 06-1075 (order no.: 001202.0111). A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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